

REMARKS

The Examiner stated that he did not receive all of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement. For the Examiner's convenience, a date-stamped mail room receipt evidencing prior submission of the references is being provided along with copies of the references themselves, and a new 1449 Form for the Examiner to initial.

Claims 1 - 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AOYAMA in view of WHITING. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 now define the saved information in the memory card as different types of information. Only one type of information (i.e., the acquired information) is compared with information stored in memory (e.g., RAM).

The features of the independent claims provide a player with access to all acquired information stored on the memory card. For example, imagine a memory card storing several different saved games. In this example, the player may load one of the saved games from a specific memory slot. The loaded game has three pieces of acquired information. In the other memory slots (i.e., in the other saved games) two other different pieces of information are stored (perhaps from when previously playing the game as a different character). Because each piece of acquired information from the entire memory card (and not just the pieces associated with the currently loaded game) is analyzed, the player has access to all five pieces of acquired information without having to again

perform the previously completed tasks that obtained the two other pieces of information. Thus, the two other pieces of data are available without actually playing the currently loaded game, making the game more fun by eliminating the requirement that the player replay every scene. In other words, the player does not have to redo certain previously completed tasks, even when playing a new game.

The applied art does not compare *only* certain types of stored information (i.e., acquired information, and not interrupted-game data or character data), as claimed. By comparing only a selected type of data, all of the data stored on the memory card is not copied into the internal memory. In contrast, WHITING checks *every* file to determine whether a backup of the file already exists. Then a complete backup is made, i.e., every file is stored on both the disk volume and the backup storage device, although duplicate files are not again copied. AOYAMA does not supply the deficiencies of WHITING.

The claims as amended define different types of information written to the memory card. For example, claim 1 recites acquired information, interrupted-game data, and character data. Neither of the applied references teach the claimed different types of data. Classifying the stored data is significant, enabling only selected types of data to be compared.

Consequently, for all of these reasons, it is submitted that the independent claims are allowable over the applied references.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and ¹²_^ are also believed to recite further ^{we 2} patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The amendments to the claims add no prohibited new matter. The amendments are supported, *inter alia*, by pages 12 - 14, 18, and 19 of the specification.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

P21336.A04

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Motumu TORIYAMA et al.

Will L. Lyall Reg. No.
Bruce H. Bernstein 41,568
Reg. No. 29,027

March 24, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191